



Monroe County Florida Keys Weather Briefing

Heavy Rainfall and Strong Thunderstorm Wind Gusts Possible through Thursday morning

Issued: November 15, 2023 – 9:30 am EST

This weather briefing is for emergency management and critical infrastructure core partners serving the Florida Keys of Monroe County.

**A FLOOD WATCH IS IN EFFECT THROUGH THURSDAY MORNING FOR THE MIDDLE AND UPPER FLORIDA KEYS
(MARATHON THROUGH OCEAN REEF)**

Bottom Line:

The threat for heavy rainfall, street and poor-drainage area flooding has increased for the Florida Keys.

A few thunderstorms/squalls may produce locally strong wind gusts through tonight.

Situation Overview:

Non-tropical low pressure over the northern Gulf of Mexico will move little through tonight. A second area of low pressure is expected to develop later tonight and early Thursday east of South Florida before moving north-northeast. The combination of these features will continue to pull rich, tropical moisture northward from the western Caribbean Sea over the Florida Keys.

Episodes of rain with embedded stronger showers and thunderstorms are expected to pass over the Florida Keys through late tonight and early Thursday morning.

In the Flood Watch area of the Middle and Upper Florida Keys, total rainfall of 5 to 8 inches with isolated amounts around 10 inches are possible. For the Lower Florida Keys, widespread amounts of 3 to 5 inches with isolated amounts near 8 inches are possible.

These rainfall amounts may produce street and poor-drainage area flooding.

The distinct tide cycle of the Lower and Middle Keys (and oceanside neighborhoods of the Upper Keys) suggests the highest impacts from rainfall and subsequent flooding could be late this evening into the early morning hours Thursday. For the Upper Keys Bayside, where the tide cycle is much more muted, a general threat of street flooding is possible throughout today into tonight.

A few stronger squalls and thunderstorms could produce wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph. While conditions are not notably favorable for tornadoes, an isolated tornado cannot be ruled out this afternoon.

Impact Summary:

WHAT:

Widespread rainfall of 5 to 8 inches with isolated amounts near 10 inches are possible in the Middle and Upper Keys (the Flood Watch area). Widespread rainfall of 3 to 5 inches with isolated amounts near 8 inches are possible in the Lower Keys.

Periodic street and poor drainage area flooding is possible.

A few strong squalls and thunderstorms may produce 40 to 50 mph wind gusts. An isolated tornado cannot be ruled out.

WHEN:

Today through early morning hours Thursday. The highest potential for flooding will occur around the times of high tides across the Lower and Middle Keys, as well as oceanside of the Upper Keys. For the Bayside neighborhoods of the Upper Keys, much of Wednesday and Wednesday night will have a potential for street and poor drainage area flooding.

CONFIDENCE:

Confidence that some areas with poor drainage and subject to high tide impacts could experience street and yard flooding has increased since yesterday.

Next Update

The next update to the weather brief is expected this afternoon.

You may contact the NWS Key West at (305) 295-1316 extension 3 to speak with a meteorologist 24/7. Please contact us anytime if you need specific information (as best as the science allows) for critical hazardous weather information for decision support in your department's activities.



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